



Alternate Channel

The newsletter for and about the members of the
LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

JULY 2004



Annual Fire & Rescue Service Awards Banquet Held

Numerous Awards Presented—See Story Starting on Page 3

Pictured Left to right: Daniel Neal, LCFR-ALS Instructor Award; Leo Kelly, Co. 15-Fire-EMS Hall of Fame Award; Patricia Russell, Co. 13-Clark J. Deener Memorial Award; Barbara Murphy, Co. 6-BLS Instructor Award; Dickie Costello, Co. 4-John C. Carr, Jr. Memorial Award; Charles Waddell, Citizen & Honorary Membership-Fire-EMS Hall of Fame Award; and Mickey Buchanan, Co. 11-John C. Carr, Jr. Memorial Award. Additional award receipts were not present for the photograph.

All Award Photographs Taken by Dick Prom, Co. 13.

Alternate Channel

is a monthly publication for members, families and supporters of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system produced by the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services.

Printed by The Printery.

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Alternate Channel

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16600 Courage Court
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Deadline Submission Date:

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

Company Reporters:

- Co. 1 J.B. Anderson, &
Ian Buchanan
- Co. 2 Rick Reaves
- Co. 3 Edna Algie-Hoppes
- Co. 4 Betty Dodge/Cyndi Vest
- Co. 5 Jim Reed
- Co. 6 Kay Parker
- Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
- Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
- Co. 9
- Co.10 Frank Fitchett
- Co.11 David Short
- Co.12 Greg Dailey
- Co.13 Marie Householder
- Co.14 Sue Johnson
- Co.15 Wilma Grant
- Co.16 Jim Dunagin
- Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.



Message From Chief Brown

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Past Chief Bob Griffin for his vision and leadership as the agency director for the Department of Fire-Rescue Services. Working closely with the Fire-Rescue Commission, the volunteer companies, and county staff, Bob was able to help move the system toward the model combination volunteer/career fire-rescue system that we've become. I hope to continue in his footsteps to establish and maintain the great working relationships that he developed. Together, we will provide the citizens of and visitors to Loudoun County with the best and most cost effective fire, rescue, and emergency medical protection possible.

As with any transition in leadership, there will be concerns, rumors, and sometimes conflict. All of these issues can be minimized mostly by open and honest communication at every level by all of us. Let's keep the lines of communication open and work toward those things that are truly important; i.e. providing service to the public. Don't let rumors, innuendoes, petty disagreements and other distractions get in our way. We have much to do and it is an exciting time to be a member of our system. Whether this is your vocation as a career employee or your avocation as a volunteer member, you are a valued asset for the protection of our community. The great work that our folks do in responding to emergency calls, providing fire/life safety education and services to the public, training, communications, emergency preparedness, code/law enforcement, and staff work is a testament to the quality of this system. Career personnel, operational and administrative volunteers, LCFR staff and auxiliary members provide front line service and support to those efforts every day. We need to encourage all of those who wish to serve their communities in any way to do so, and feel as though they are part of the team. I pledge to support and foster our combination system and to work collaboratively with all of the stakeholders to make this an even better system. But words are cheap, only time will tell and you will be the judges. So let's get down to business and do what firefighters, paramedics, and EMT's do best----prepare for emergency calls and stay focused on what is important.

My immediate goals for the next 2 months are:

1.) **Personnel safety** - Get the safety program reviewed and implemented. This includes policies for emergency incident management, health and wellness (including physicals), breathing apparatus fit testing, PPE, work environment and anything related to the general safety and health of our career and volunteer members.

2.) **Improved communications** - Establish a regular schedule of visitations with all stations, training, communications, fire marshals, and admin staff. Prepare articles for the "Alternate Channel" monthly publication highlighting successes and --yes, opportunities for improvement. Establish regular communications with those with whom we serve through a number of mediums including the new video teleconferencing system. All of us need to keep each other informed.

3.) **Core values** - Teamwork, Integrity, Professionalism and Service will be adopted as our own in LCFR. Please keep these and the others we adopt in mind; focus on them with your folks; and perform your duties with these in mind. We shall hold each other accountable for these and you may hold me personally accountable as well.

4.) **Three year strategy for Fire-Rescue** - Commission Chairman Doug Rambo and I have been asked by Supervisor Jim Clem to deliver a 3 year roadmap to the Board of Supervisors in July. A lot of this depends on the adoption of the Service Plan, but should not be an excuse should the Service Plan adoption suffer another delay. We need to tie our budget requests back to our strategy and hopefully the Service Plan. Our folks deserve to know where we are headed.

All of the above will be "works in progress" for a long time and will be the subject of separate articles. Once we get the bulk of these items implemented, we must continually review them and improve their quality. The LCFR senior staff is the guiding coalition of the Department of Fire-Rescue Services and we will work collaboratively with the Fire-Rescue Commission and councils in making the critical decisions that affect the entire system.

Thank you for all of your work and please stay safe.

Annual Fire & Rescue Service Awards Banquet Held

The Annual Fire and Rescue Services Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Loudoun County Volunteer Retention and Recruitment Committee of the Fire and Rescue Commission, was held on Thursday, May 13 at the Holiday Inn/Carradoc Hall in Leesburg.

The Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Commission recognized and thanked three individuals who have made significant contributions to our growth as a system. **William Schwartz**, currently Chief of the Philomont Volunteer Fire Company, former Chair and member of the Fire-Rescue Commission, for his countless hours of service in the past and present. **Supervisor Jim Burton**, as Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee and as the first Board of Supervisor's representative to the Fire-Rescue Commission who has helped establish the foothold that we need in order to change responsibly. **Chief Robert Griffin** of the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services who has worked with us toward a common vision of a combined system of volunteer and career fire and rescue professionals.

The Loudoun County EMS and Fire Councils presented the following **Instructor Awards**:

Barbara Murphy of the Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company was presented the Basic Life Support Instructor Award for her exceptional service in the coordination and instruction in First Responder, EMT-Basic, CPR, and other numerous training programs. She is active in Public Education programs and in the education of Explorer Post members.



Daniel Neal of the Loudoun County Department of Fire & Rescue Services was presented the Advanced Life Support Instructor Award for consistently meeting the Advanced Life Support educational needs of our system members. He has provided knowledge, skills, guidance, development and direction in the field. His actions have gained him the compliments of those he has worked and the ultimate respect of the system.



Joshua W. Cooper of the Loudoun County Department of Fire & Rescue Services was presented the Fire Instructor Award his 5-year assignment to the Training Division of the Department where he has im-

proved the Basic and Advanced Life Support training programs. He has continually increased his knowledge and experience by attending Train the Trainer programs in order to increase his ability to deliver quality education programs to all members of the system.

All three are being recognized for their dedication and commitment to training.

The Fire & EMS Hall of Fame Award was presented to five deserving volunteers, Dr. Donald A. Sabella, Leo C. Kelly, Harry Wynkoop, Ross Peacemaker and Charles Waddell.

Donald Sabella, MD, joined the medical staff of the Loudoun Memorial Hospital in 1980. Since the time of his arrival he has played an important role in the education of direction of EMS Providers and the provision of Emergency Medical Care in Loudoun County.

Sabella grew up in Rutherford, New Jersey, and attended college at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey. While attending college, Sabella became a volunteer member of the Rutherford Ambulance Corps and became certified in the highest level of training at that time which was American Red Cross Advanced First Aid. He spent many hours sleeping and studying at the station and even delivered triplets by himself in the back of a moving ambulance. This was a major accomplishment even for the most seasoned EMS provider.

Following his graduation from St. Peter's he was accepted to and attended medical school at Georgetown University School of Medicine and graduated in 1972. Sabella completed a residency program in Internal Medicine at DC General Hospital in conjunction with the Georgetown School of Medicine. Fol-

Continued on Page 5

AUGUST 2004

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire & Rescue System

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,16	3	4 Companies 13 & 17	5	6	7
8 Company 14	9 Companies 2,7,8,9,12 BLS Committee	10 Rescue Chiefs	11 Company 10 Retention & Recruitment Committee	12 Company 15	13	14
15	16 Company 1 ALS Committee	17 EMS Council	18 Fire Council	19	20	21
22	23 Companies 4 & 8	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Fire-Rescue Commission (may change)				
SCHEDULED TRAINING						

AHA CPR-Healthcare Provider

Class #5 July 17, 2004
Class #6 August 29, 2004
Class #7 October 17, 2004
Class #8 December 5, 2004

Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC)

July 6, 8, 10, 2004

EMT-Intermediate-Daytime Class

Begins: Thursday, August 12th,
2004—See Below

EMT-B Pretest: July 6th, 2004
Interviews: Week of July 12th
HOBET Exam: July 20th

Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Commission

Doug Rambo Allie Love
Mickey Buchanan
Fred Muller Joe Habib
Ian Buchanan

**Jack Brown, Chief,
Loudoun County Department
of Fire & Rescue Services**

**Jim Clem,
Loudoun Board of Supervisor**

**Donald A. Sabella, M.D.,
Medical Director**

**CHECK YOUR PHOTO ID CARD'S
EXPIRATION DATE**

lowing the completion of his residency, he joined a private practice in Tucson, Arizona as an internist but fortunately for us returned after one year to the Northern Virginia area to continue private practice.

Sabella joined the ER Group at Loudoun Memorial Hospital in 1980. In 1984, he became the Director of the Emergency Department and also at that time became the Operational Medical Director for all EMS Agencies in Loudoun County. He also had the distinction of being one of the early physicians who were Board Certified in Emergency Medicine.

Although Sabella was forced to retire from the ER group in 2002, due to medical reasons, he has continued to serve uninterrupted for the past twenty years as the Medical Director for the Loudoun County EMS Council, Inc. and it's nineteen member agencies.

Sabella has taken an active role in the direction, education, quality assurance and overall management of the EMS system. He has served as a counselor advisor and friend to each and every member of the system.

In recognition of his service to EMS, Dr. Sabella received the distinguished Clark Deener Memorial Award for his service to Loudoun County in 1995. He was also named by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia as the Operational Medical Director of the Year.

This year the Board of Directors of Loudoun Hospital Center recognized Sabella's

many contributions to the hospital and to the citizens of Loudoun County by naming the Emergency Department at the Loudoun Hospital Center Lansdowne Campus the Donald A. Sabella Emergency Department.

It is truly due to his efforts that we have such an effective EMS System in Loudoun County. Loudoun County is very fortunate that he chose to make his home here and to become part of our fire-rescue system. Emergency Medicine and EMS was truly his calling and we have all benefited from his service.

Leo C. Kelly joined the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Company in 1973, while he was working for the Cardiology Department of the Washington Hospital Center as a physician's assistant and cardiovascular assistant. Kelly has held numerous leadership positions with the Sterling Rescue Company over his years of service and became a Life Member in 1982.

Kelly became a Virginia cer-



tified Emergency Medical Technician in 1973 and a Charter Member of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians in 1974.

Also in 1974 he obtained certification as an Emergency Medical Technician Instructor

and continues to pass on his knowledge and skills to students attending basic and advanced life support training programs. In that same year he began his service to the Loudoun County Emergency Medical Advisory Council, where he continues to serve today. Kelly serves on numerous committees and Chairs the Advanced Life Support Committee. Kelly was instrumental in the development of the Advanced Life Support Policies and Protocols for Advanced Life Support Technicians in the County. Kelly also served on the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Commission for years.

Harry Wynkoop served as the Chief for three years and President for eight years as a member of the Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company. In 1969 he actually held both the Chief and President position for the company.

Wynkoop served on the Loudoun County Fire Association and with the newly formed Fire Marshal's Office to develop strategies to insure an equitable method of financing operations and the reimbursements to the volunteer companies.

Ross Peacemaker began his service in 1958 as a firefighter with the Arcola Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company, where he served as Chief and President for many years. Peacemaker increased his involvement with the fire-rescue system by serving on the Fire Association and working on various committees. He also worked to improve the method of financial reimbursements to the volunteer companies. Peacemaker was also actively involved in the establishment of policies

and protocols.

Charles Waddell served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors from 1968 through 1973. During that time period, one of his most important work efforts

was to insure that the County Fire-Rescue Department was appropriately represented at all Board meetings. Waddell was very active in promoting the efforts of the fire-rescue system and fought for financial assistance for all the volunteer companies.

Waddell is currently Honorary Member of several volunteer fire-rescue companies in Loudoun County.

While serving as a State Senator for over twenty years, Waddell was instrumental in having the Heart Lung Bill and the Volunteer Fire-Rescue Retirement system enacted. He supported all bills and policies that would serve to enhance and support the volunteer fire-rescue service.

This year's **John C. Carr, Jr. Memorial Award** was presented to two individuals.

Dickie Costello, President of the Round Hill Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company and **Mickey Buchanan**, Chief of the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company.

Costello was recognized for his long-term service to his company and the fire-rescue system. He worked to establish standards in training and response practices

by serving on numerous commit-



tees. Costello provided service as a member and leadership of the old Fire-Rescue Association, the Fire Advisory Council, and the Fire & Rescue Commission. He served in the position of Chief of the Round Hill Volunteer Fire-Rescue Company for over 20 years.

Mickey Buchanan joined the fire-rescue system in 1984, first with the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad and then transferred his membership to the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company. Buchanan has and continues to serve on the Loudoun County Fire Advisory Council and many committees to improve the fire service within Loudoun County. Buchanan has served as Chief for the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company numerous times.

He is employed by Fairfax County Fire-Rescue where he has worked for 20 years and is a member of the Virginia Task



Force One.

The **Clark J. Deener Me-**

morial Award was presented to **Patricia W. Russell**, of the Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad in Leesburg. Russell was recognized for her significant contribution to the emergency medical services system in Loudoun County. She joined Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue in 1994 and has demonstrated on a continual basis an unrelenting



dedication to quality patient care, training, company and system-wide management that has inspired many member of our system. Russell provides Advanced Life Support medical care to her patients as an EMT-Intermediate

Russell has spent countless hours providing training at both the basic and advanced life support training courses countywide and at her volunteer company. She has worked as an advanced life support preceptor, helping newly trained providers continue their education in the clinical environment. She also participates in training parents to install child safety seats properly.

In addition to providing her services on emergency incidents, she participates in special events and stand-bys.

Russell has served as Chair the Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and has served on many committees including the Advanced Life Support Committee.

Loudoun Joins National Medical Response Team

Ten Loudoun Career Fire Fighters attended recent training for the mass decontamination of victims of a chemical, biological, or nuclear attack (NBC). As members of the National Medical Response Team – National Capital Region (NMRT-NCR) known as “DC-1”, these personnel completed training in mass decontamination and recognition of various weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The National Medical Response Team is not a new concept. Originally started in the mid-1990s, they were known as “Metropolitan Medical Strike Teams” or “MMST”. “DC-1” is one of four national response teams trained for the mission of mass decontamination for WMD victims. Other teams are located in Denver, Los Angeles, and Charlotte. Whereas the other teams will deploy anywhere in the country, “DC-1” is the only fixed federal response team in the nation. The NMRT Teams come under the auspices of the National Disaster Medical System which has recently been moved under the Response Division of the Department of Homeland Security.

When called upon to respond, the team can fully activate in four hours or less. However, anytime there is a large national security incident, the team will pre-deploy in order to be prepared if an attack occurs. The main function of the team is to establish tent lines and conduct mass decontamination using large portable tent showers. In addition to fire and EMS person-

nel, the NMRT is the only team which incorporates armed police officers who can operate in Level A suits. This allows strong operational security aspect while operating at the site of a WMD attack.

All participants (as pictured below) in the training agreed it was a beneficial training and look forward to future training and preparation with “DC-1”.

Submitted by Captain Daniel Neal, LCFR



Front Row, Left to Right: FF Chris Payne, FF Chris Frank, FF Scott Brazier, Battalion Chief Linda Hale, and FF Mike Johnson. Back Row, L-R: Captain Todd Wenner, Lt James Harvey, Battalion Chief Mike Nally, FF Jasen Dodson, and Captain Daniel Neal.



Large portable tent showers for mass decontamination.



Recruit Class # 10 Graduated on June 11th

Front Row (left to right): Dennis Phebus, Rodney Scott, Scott Babiak, Sean Evans, Jeff Mack, Josh Yoder, James Badin, and Shawn Grubbs.

Back Row (left to right): Derrick Crawford, Jackie Shingleton, Tom Clappi, Matt Rovelli, Larry Gibson, Josh Bentz and "Wild Bill" Sarley.

Company 8 News

During a recent Cub Scout meeting held at the Philomont Fire Station, local Cub Scouts received a tour of the station including a look at the tools used by firefighters for various jobs. As part of the tour, the children heard more about fire education such as "Stop, Drop and Roll" and the importance of smoke detectors and evacuation plans. This is one of several ways that the Philomont VFD works to serve our community. By aiding in fire prevention education, we hope to make our jobs easier in the long run. We've seen Cub Scouts from as far away as Fairfax come to our station to see what a rural

firehouse is like and how it differs from those in urban areas, and to have fun learning about safety while earning their badges.

Submitted by Ed Carmichael, Co.8



FF's Ed Carmichael and Joe Hughes educating the Cub Scouts.

Company 9 News

On Friday May 21st, The Sons of Italy held their 2nd Golf Charity Event at South Riding Golf course. Last year 72 golfers participated, this year 104.

Two teams from Co. 9 played and did well or at least had a great time. Derrick Bennett & Bob Vazquez were the official judges for hole-in-one contest, but unfortunately no-one won the prize of a car. Joni Johnson did registration and Tony Baptiste helped with set-up, clean-up.

At the awards lunch, all the members of Co. 9 were recognized, Chief Shultz, Assistant Rescue Chief Derrick Bennett, Retired Chief Ray Case, FF Chris Meier, FF Lance Ellison, Sara Case AND several had the good fortune of winning some nice raffle prizes including golf games, clubs, etc.

The APVVFD will receive a donation of about \$3500 as the local charity supported by OSIA. Next years date has already been set for May 20th., so all you golfers mark your calendars for a great event.

Submitted by Sara Case, Co. 9

***A BIG THANK YOU
for the articles!
Please keep the articles &
photos coming!***

***E-mail Attached
Articles & Photos
To: frust@loudoun.gov***